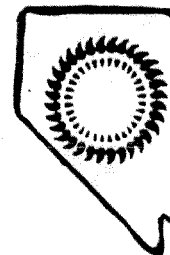


NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

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SYNOPSIS

February was an unusually sunny, warm and dry month over Nevada. In fact, at some locations it was the warmest February of record. For example, Reno logged a 46.0 degree average for the warmest February since records began 107 years ago in 1888. This was 8 degrees warmer than normal and surpassed the 45.4 degree average of February 1907. Third place in the warm derby is now February 1963 with 44.4 degrees. In contrast the coldest February was in 1903 with only a 20.1 degree average! Las Vegas also enjoyed an early Spring as the temperature averaged 7 & 1/2 degrees above normal for the warmest February since Airport records began in 1937.

After a wet November, a dry December, a wet January, and a dry February Water Year Precipitation (Oct. 1, 1994 - March 1, 1995) is 15-25% lower than one month ago, but still above normal in all but the Owyhee River Area in the extreme Northeast. As this is being written in mid-March very heavy precipitation has been recorded over all of Nevada, especially in the Far West.

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures averaged 6-11 degrees above normal Statewide. In addition to the warmest February of record at Reno, December 1994, and January and February 1995 have been the warmest for that 90 consecutive days of winter since temperature records began in 1888. Such is the case over much of Nevada, as artificial heating devices have never been used so little!

The warmest temperature during February was 87 degrees at Amargosa Valley on the 20th. The mercury also reached into the 80's along the Colorado River and at Lake Mead. The State record high for the month is 93, set at Laughlin in 1986. Several locations dropped below zero at mid-month, but were not near the -42 at Carlin-Newmont in February 1989. This February San Jacinto had only -16, Audrey Audrain at North Spring Valley and Frank Prunty at Charleston -15, and Mountain City -10.

PRECIPITATION

February 1995 precipitation was below normal in all but the lower Humboldt River Area and at Elgin, Ely, and Searchlight where it was slightly above normal. Most locations logged less than 1/2 normal for the month.

The wettest location was Kyle Canyon at 7500' on Mt. Charelston where 3.75" fell, with 2.98" on the 14th. Elgin had 1.77" and Daggett Pass only 1.30", with the Couer-Rochester Mine recording 1.19" and 1.15" at Antelope Valley Farr. Rain gages remained dry at Kings River Valley, Candelaria, Tonopah, Amargosa Valley, and at Ken Poleman's Montezuma Station near Goldfield.

SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

Sunshine hours were well above normal, in fact near record February levels at some locations. Wind speed averages were well below normal, with the peak gust reaching 86 mph at 11,600 foot Bald Mountain, in Great Basin National Park. Gusts also reached the 50-60 mph category in Western Nevada at mid-month.

Evaporation was well above normal at the only locations that have unfrozen evaporation pans during winter.

NOTE: During what year in the last 100 years was the warmest March in Nevada? 1934. The coldest? 1897.

NEXT MONTH

A report on a very wet March.

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